

ANTS ARE ALL OVER

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This is a story of an enchanting young man, Anthony Santiago, an immigrant from Antwerp, who became a very important contributor to our society as a result of his penchant for inventions. He was responsible for the development of an antiseptic that rendered many malignant diseases dormant. He created a safety lantern for use in anthracite mines, a sextant that received worldwide acclaim, and he helped perfect a disinfectant for commercial use. His discoveries included a bullet-proof canteen that is still being used by the military, and an antenna he developed for a local power plant that is now being distributed nationwide. He remains a consultant for the manufacturer. Anthony is currently working on a new design for a fire hydrant that will double the water output while keeping a constant pressure.

Here is proof of how it once was in our country when immigrants came to contribute to our society instead of arrogantly supplanting to get on the dole.

Anthony is a distant descendant and confidant of Anton Antonelli, the famous and gallant anti-aircraft expert from Canton, Ohio, who had a fantastic career in aviation.

Arriving in this country in baggy pantaloons and a torn shirt, he had only scant funds. Anthony became an occupant of a shanty outside Chantilly, Virginia. It sat on little more than a vacant lot. Despite these less-than-enchanted surroundings, he was mindful of all that went on around him. He immediately began to involve himself in activity. He planted a large garden which brought many new crops to the area including eggplant, cantaloupe, and currants. As a result of his vigilant approach this experiment produced such luxuriant quantities that he was able to earn money selling his surplus to local merchants. During the winter months he tried his hand as an anthropologist assistant and worked for the Appellant Court, filling a position vacated by the retirement of Manti Mantlo. He was awarded the position over three other applicants.

During this period Anthony was more than a nonchalant observant of religious history. He was reported to be celebrant at the time, a part of his Protestant upbringing. He gave a new slant to this concept in an elegant talk on virtue. Following his presentation, he said he would be a participant with others in the pursuit of the goal to be triumphant in dismantling prejudice and working with peccadillants.

Anthony was never hesitant to take a stand. He was cognizant

of the advantage of speaking out to spread his message. It was irrelevant, he lamented, that a tyrant from time to time would give a different view. We must be tolerant of others' ideas, he said (his gigantic size helped make the point).

Anthony's claim to fame was interrupted by a call from the Army. He served in the infantry as a lieutenant and his flamboyant leadership earned him instant recognition. He was unfortunately wounded by enemy gunfire. Luckily his canteen prevented the bullet from doing significant harm. During his convalescence he studied Anthropology more seriously and drafted his plans for the bullet-proof canteen that would, as previously mentioned, become one of his famous inventions.

After his military career, Anthony met Samantha Cantrell. He was an escort at her debutante party and was instantly impressed by her pleasant manner and brilliant radiance. He wanted to see more of her. A change came over his thinking and the passionate juices flowed. A romantic courtship followed. The desire to right the world gave in to the relationship, and they were married. Soon they were exuberant to learn Samantha was expectant. Several months after she became pregnant, they moved into an antebellum mansion which had been dormant for several years. They dismantled much of the main structure. Remodeling started with them living in a tenant house that had been the servants' quarters. Samantha was content with the arrangement knowing Anthony was on his way to a successful career, and busied herself with renovations and raising the family.

Their offspring was born in the middle of the alterations. They set the nursery in the recently-completed atrium. The infant took the name of Anton in memory of Mr. Antonelli, whose picture was proudly displayed over the mantel.

Things moved substantially ahead with the renovations. Among the improvements were a new pantile roof, an expanded pantry, a hand-painted mural in the anteroom, and new siding. Many antiques were obtained to grace the changes, and the grounds were restored to their earlier plantation appearance, pursuant to a plan from earlier drawings. A great improvement over the rem they had purchased! Some expressed the view the changes were extravagant, but this was insignificant to the Santiagos.

Everything was in place for Anthony to concentrate on his inventions and Samantha to mold Anton into a good inhabitant. You can be assured he was raised with discipline. Any ranting and raving or tantrum-throwing was handled immediately. Anthony and Samantha were appreciative of their abundant good fortune and conversant with the role their steady hard work played in its attainment.

Granted things have changed, but that's the way it used to be with immigrants to America.